1	HOUSE BILL NO. 120
2	INTRODUCED BY FACEY
3	BY REQUEST OF THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH, WILDLIFE, AND PARKS
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5	A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT REVISING FISH, WILDLIFE, AND PARKS LAWS PERTAINING TO
6	THE ILLEGAL USE OF ALCOHOL AND DRUGS; REVISING THE REGULATION OF BOATING UNDER THE
7	INFLUENCE, INCLUDING PENALTIES; CLARIFYING THE STANDARDS FOR ALCOHOL CONCENTRATION
8	AND TESTING; ESTABLISHING THE AUTHORITY OF FISH, WILDLIFE, AND PARKS WARDENS AND PARK
9	RANGERS TO ENFORCE LAWS RELATED TO PERSONS OPERATING MOTORBOATS AND SAILBOATS
10	WHILE UNDER THE INFLUENCE, MINORS IN POSSESSION OF INTOXICATING SUBSTANCES IN
11	MOTORBOATS AND SAILBOATS, AND MINORS IN POSSESSION OF INTOXICATING SUBSTANCES IN
12	STATE PARKS, IN FISHING ACCESS SITES, AND ON PUBLIC WATERS; AMENDING SECTIONS 23-1-106,
13	23-2-506, 23-2-523, 61-8-407, AND 87-1-502, MCA; REPEALING SECTION 23-2-535, MCA; AND PROVIDING
14	AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE."
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16	BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:
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18	NEW SECTION. Section 1. Definitions. As used in [sections 1 through 7], the following definitions
19	apply:
20	(1) "Alcohol concentration" has the meaning provided in 61-8-407;
21	(2) "Dangerous drug" means a drug described in 50-32-101(6);
22	(3) "Motorboat" means a motorboat as defined in 23-2-502(8);
23	(4) "Sailboat" means a sailboat defined in 23-2-502(16) that is 12 feet in length or longer;
24	(5) "Under the influence" means that as a result of taking into the body alcohol, dangerous drugs, other
25	drugs, or any combination of alcohol and dangerous drugs or other drugs, a person's ability to safely operate
26	a motorboat or sailboat has been diminished.
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28	NEW SECTION. Section 2. Operation of motorboat or sailboat while intoxicated penalties. (1)
29	(a) A person commits the offense of operating a motorboat or a sailboat while intoxicated if the person operates
30	or is in actual physical control of a motorboat or sailboat on the waters of this state open to the public while:

1	(i) under the influence;
2	(ii) having an alcohol concentration, as shown by analysis of the person's blood or breath, of 0.08 or
3	more; or
4	(iii) having in one's body any amount of a dangerous drug, as shown by analysis of the person's blood.
5	(b) Absolute liability, as provided for in 45-2-104, is imposed for a violation of this subsection (1).
6	(2) A person who is convicted of the offense of operating a motorboat or a sailboat while intoxicated,
7	in violation of subsection (1), is subject to the following penalties:
8	(a) for a first offense, the person shall be:
9	(i) imprisoned in the county jail for not less than 48 hours or more than 6 months;
10	(ii) fined an amount not less than \$300 or more than \$1,000;
11	(iii) prohibited from operating a motorboat or sailboat for 1 year; and
12	(iv) ordered to comply with the chemical dependency education course and chemical dependency
13	treatment provisions of 61-8-732;
14	(b) for a second offense, the person shall be:
15	(i) imprisoned in the county jail for not less than 7 days or more than 6 months;
16	(ii) fined an amount not less than \$300 or more than \$1,000;
17	(iii) prohibited from operating a motorboat or sailboat for 1 year; and
18	(iv) ordered to comply with the chemical dependency education course and chemical dependency
19	treatment provisions of 61-8-732; and
20	(c) for a third or subsequent offense, the person shall be:
21	(i) imprisoned in the county jail for not less than 30 days or more than 1 year;
22	(ii) fined an amount not less than \$1,000 or more than \$5,000;
23	(iii) prohibited from operating a motorboat or sailboat for 2 years; and
24	(iv) ordered to comply with the chemical dependency education course and chemical dependency
25	treatment provisions of 61-8-732.
26	(3) A court may not defer judgment or sentencing or suspend execution of any mandatory minimum
27	sentence of incarceration imposed under subsection (2).
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29	NEW SECTION. Section 3. Implied consent to test test procedures independent testing. (1)
30	A person who operates or is in actual physical control of a motorboat or sailboat on the waters of this state open



1 to the public is considered to have given consent to a test or tests of the person's blood or breath for purposes 2 of determining any measured amount or detected presence of alcohol or dangerous drugs in the person's body. 3 (2) The test or tests must be administered at the direction of a peace officer when: 4 (a) the officer has reasonable grounds to believe that the person has been operating or has been in 5 actual physical control of a motorboat or sailboat while under the influence or the person has been placed under 6 arrest for a violation of [section 2]; 7 (b) the person is less than 21 years of age and has been placed under arrest for a violation of [section 8 6]; or 9 (c) the officer has probable cause to believe that the person was operating or was in actual physical 10 control of a motorboat or sailboat in violation of [section 2] and the person has been involved in a boating 11 accident or collision that resulted in property damage, serious bodily injury, as defined in 45-2-101, or death. (3) The arresting or investigating officer may designate which blood or breath test or tests are 12 13 administered. 14 (4) A person who is unconscious or who is otherwise in a condition rendering the person incapable of 15 consent or refusal is considered to have not withdrawn the implied consent provided for in subsection (1). In that 16 case, the tests or tests may be given if a licensed physician certifies in advance of the test that the person is in 17 a condition rendering the person incapable of consent or refusal. 18 (5) If an arrested person refuses to submit to a test or tests requested and designated by the officer, 19 the act is considered a refusal to submit, and the officer shall inform the person that the refusal will result in the 20 penalties prescribed in [section 5]. 21 (6) Refusal to submit to a test under this section does not prohibit the withdrawal of a specimen for 22 chemical testing when a motorboat or sailboat has been involved in an accident resulting in death or serious 23 bodily injury if the officer has reasonable grounds to believe that the operator of the motorboat or sailboat was 24 violating [section 2] and the officer has obtained a search warrant permitting the withdrawal of the specimen for 25 chemical testing. 26 (7) Only a licensed physician or registered nurse, acting at the request of a peace officer, may withdraw 27 a blood specimen for purposes of determining alcohol concentration or the presence of dangerous drugs. 28 (8) In addition to any test or tests administered at the direction of a peace officer pursuant to this 29 section, a person may have an independent chemical test or tests administered at the person's own expense. 30 The failure or inability of a person to obtain an independent chemical test or tests does not preclude the



1 admission of evidence of the results of the test or tests administered at the direction of the peace officer. Upon 2 request of the person who is tested, the results of the test or tests administered at the direction of the peace 3 officer must be made available to the tested person. 4 5 NEW SECTION. Section 4. Admissibility of evidence of boating under the influence. (1) In any prosecution under [section 2], evidence of the results of the analysis of a specimen of a defendant's blood or 6 7 breath is admissible upon proof of a proper foundation. The alcohol concentration established by the results of 8 the analysis of a specimen drawn within 2 hours after a defendant was operating or was in physical control of 9 a motorboat or sailboat is presumed to be the alcohol concentration at the time of the defendant's operation or 10 physical control. 11 (2) If a person refuses to submit to a blood or breath test, proof of the refusal is admissible in any civil 12 or criminal action or proceeding arising out of acts alleged to have been committed while the person was 13 operating a motorboat or sailboat in violation of [section 2]. 14 (3) This section does not limit the introduction of any competent evidence bearing on the question of 15 whether a person was under the influence of alcohol or a dangerous drug or other drug, including the results 16 of chemical tests of specimens of blood or breath obtained more than 2 hours after the person was operating 17 or was in physical control of a motorboat or sailboat. 18 19 NEW SECTION. Section 5. Refusal to submit to test -- resisting or obstructing withdrawal of 20 specimen -- penalties. (1) If a person refuses to submit to a test requested and designated by a peace officer 21 pursuant to [section 3], a test may not be administered unless a search warrant is obtained. However, refusal 22 of a test is punishable as provided in subsection (2). 23 (2) A court, upon finding that an officer had reasonable grounds to believe that a person was operating 24 a motorboat or sailboat in violation of [section 2], that the specified conditions existed for testing pursuant to 25 [section 3], and that the person refused to submit to a test, shall: 26 (a) order that the person not operate a motorboat or sailboat for 1 year; and 27 (b) impose a mandatory civil penalty as follows: 28 (i) for a first refusal, a fine of \$500; 29 (ii) for a second refusal, a fine of \$1,000; and 30 (iii) for a third or subsequent refusal, a fine of \$2,000.



1 (3) If a person does not pay the civil penalty imposed under subsection (2) by the time that the 1-year 2 order not to operate expires, the court shall extend the order not to operate a motorboat or sailboat for an 3 additional year and may also impose penalties for contempt. 4 (4) A court may not defer judgment or sentencing or suspend execution of any order or fine imposed 5 under subsection (2). 6 (5) The penalties imposed under subsection (2) apply in addition to any penalties imposed under 7 [section 2], except that the 1-year period under an order not to operate a motorboat or sailboat in subsection 8 (2)(a) must be imposed and must run concurrently with any period of time that a defendant is ordered not to 9 operate a motorboat or sailboat pursuant to [section 2]. 10 (6) A person who knowingly resists or obstructs the withdrawal of a specimen pursuant to a search 11 warrant under [section 3(6)] is guilty of contempt punishable by a fine of not more than \$1,000 or imprisonment 12 in the county jail for not more than 1 year, or both. If the person is also convicted of operating a motorboat or 13 sailboat while intoxicated under [section 2], the penalties imposed under [section 2] are in addition to the 14 penalties in this subsection (6). 15 16 NEW SECTION. Section 6. Operation of motorboat or sailboat while intoxicated by person under 17 age of 21 -- penalty. (1) It is unlawful for a person less than 21 years of age who has an alcohol concentration 18 of 0.02 or more to operate or be in actual physical control of a motorboat or sailboat on the waters of this state 19 open to the public. Absolute liability, as provided for in 45-2-104, is imposed for a violation of this section. 20 (2) A person who is convicted of violating the provisions of this section is subject to the following 21 penalties: 22 (a) for a first offense, the person shall be fined an amount not less than \$100 or more than \$500; 23 (b) for a second offense, the person shall be fined an amount not less than \$200 or more than \$500, 24 and if the person is 18 years of age or older, the person shall be imprisoned in the county jail for not more than 25 10 days; and 26 (c) for a third or subsequent offense, the person shall be fined an amount not less than \$300 or more 27 than \$500, and if the person is 18 years of age or older, the person shall be imprisoned in the county jail for not 28 less than 24 consecutive hours or more than 60 days. 29 (3) In addition to the penalties provided in subsection (2), a person convicted of violating this section: 30 (a) shall be ordered to comply with the chemical dependency education course and chemical

1 dependency treatment provisions of 61-8-732; and 2 (b) is prohibited from operating a motorboat or sailboat for 1 year. 3 (4) A conviction under this section may not be counted as a prior conviction for purposes of sentencing 4 under [section 2]. 5 6 NEW SECTION. Section 7. Violation of order prohibiting operation of motorboat or sailboat. (1) 7 A person who operates a motorboat or sailboat in violation of an order made under [section 2, 5, or 6] is guilty 8 of a misdemeanor punishable by a mandatory fine of \$1,000 and imprisonment in the county jail for not more 9 than 1 year, or both fine and imprisonment. 10 (2) In addition to the penalties imposed under subsection (1), the court shall extend the period of 11 prohibition on operating a motorboat or sailboat for an additional length of time equal to the time set out in the 12 order that the person violated. 13 14 **Section 1.** Section 23-1-106, MCA, is amended to read: 15 "23-1-106. Rules -- penalties -- enforcement. (1) The department may make rules governing the use, 16 occupancy, and protection of the lands and property under its control. 17 (2) Any A person who purposely, knowingly, or negligently injures or damages any land or property 18 under control of the department or private property thereon or therein on or within land or property controlled by 19 the department or who violates any of the rules made by the department relating to these areas is guilty of a 20 misdemeanor and shall be fined not more than \$500 or be imprisoned in the county jail for not more than 6 21 months. 22 (3) It is unlawful and a misdemeanor punishable as provided in subsection (2) to refuse to exhibit for 23 inspection any park permit, proof of age, or proof of residency upon request by a fish and game warden, park 24 ranger, or peace officer. 25 (4) The department shall enforce the provisions of this chapter and rules implementing this chapter. The 26 director of the department shall employ all necessary and qualified personnel for enforcement purposes. 27 (5) The department is a criminal justice agency for the purpose of obtaining the technical assistance

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and support services provided by the board of crime control under the provisions of 44-4-301. Authorized officers

of the department are granted peace officer status with the power:

(a) of search, seizure, and arrest;

1 (b) to investigate activities in this state regulated by this chapter and rules of the department and the 2 fish, wildlife, and parks commission; 3 (c) to enforce [sections 1 through 7] as they pertain to boating under the influence; 4 (d)(c) to enforce 45-5-624 as it pertains to possession of intoxicating substances by minors in state 5 parks, in fishing access sites, and on public waters; and 6 (c)(e)(D) to report violations to the county attorney of the county in which they occur." 7 8 **Section 2.** Section 23-2-506, MCA, is amended to read: 9 "23-2-506. Enforcement. (1) The department is a criminal justice agency for the purpose of obtaining 10 the technical assistance and support services provided by the board of crime control under the provisions of 11 44-4-301. Authorized officers of the department are granted peace officer status with the power: 12 (a) of search, seizure, and arrest; 13 (b) to investigate activities in this state regulated by this part and rules of the department and the fish, 14 wildlife, and parks commission; 15 (c) to enforce [sections 1 through 7] as they pertain to boating under the influence; 16 (d)(c) to enforce 45-5-624 as it pertains to possession of intoxicating substances by minors in state 17 parks, in fishing access sites, and on public waters; and 18 (c)(e)(D) to report violations to the county attorney of the county in which they occur. 19 (2) All sheriffs and peace officers of the state of Montana and all United States coast guard law 20 enforcement officers shall have authority are authorized to enforce provisions of this part, as amended." 21 22 Section 10. Section 23-2-523, MCA, is amended to read: 23 <u>"23-2-523. Prohibited operation and mooring -- enforcement. (1) A person may not operate or </u> 24 knowingly permit a person to operate a motorboat or vessel or manipulate waterskis, a surfboard, or a similar 25 device or other contrivance in a reckless or negligent manner so as to endanger the life, limb, or property of a 26 person by: 27 (a) engaging in maneuvers that unreasonably or unnecessarily endanger life, limb, or property, including 28 but not limited to: 29 (i) weaving through congested vessel traffic or jumping the wake of another vessel unreasonably or 30 unnecessarily close to the other vessel or when visibility around the other vessel is obstructed; and including

1	(ii) swerving at the last possible moment to avoid collision,:
2	(iii) following directly behind a waterskier,:
3	<u>(iv)</u> speeding in confined or restricted areas,; and
4	(v) buzzing or wetting down others, which constitute reckless operation of a vessel; or
5	(b) crossing or jumping the wake of another vessel when within 100 yards of the vessel or within 100
6	yards of a waterskier being towed by the vessel, except when directly entering or leaving a public or private
7	marina, waterski facility, or other watercraft docking or loading area.
8	(2) A person may not operate a motorboat, including a sailboat propelled by a motor of any kind, or
9	manipulate waterskis, a surfboard, or a similar device attached to a motorboat while under the influence of
10	alcohol, drugs, or a combination of the two.
11	(3) It is unlawful for the The owner of a motorboat or vessel or a person having the motorboat or vessel
12	in charge or in control to may not authorize or knowingly permit the motorboat or vessel to be operated by a
13	person who by reason of physical or mental disability is incapable of operating the watercraft under the prevailing
14	circumstances.
15	(4) A person may not operate or knowingly permit a person to operate a motorboat or vessel at a rate
16	of speed greater than will permit the person, in the exercise of reasonable care, to bring the vessel to a stop
17	within the assured clear distance ahead. However, nothing in this part is intended to prevent the operator of a
18	vessel actually competing in a regatta that is sanctioned by an appropriate governmental unit from attempting
19	to attain high speeds on a marked racing course.
20	(5) A person may not make a reckless approach to, departure from, or passage by a dock, ramp, diving
21	board, or float.
22	(6) Skiers being pulled by motorboats a motorboat must have on their person a United States coast
23	guard approved personal flotation device in good and serviceable condition.
24	(7) A person may not moor a vessel to buoys or beacons placed in any waters of this state by the
25	authority of the United States, an agency of the United States, or the department or in any manner hang on with
26	a vessel to a buoy or beacon, except in the act of maintenance work on the buoy or beacon, nor may any person
27	deface, remove, or destroy a buoy, beacon, or other authorized navigational marker maintained in the waters
28	of this state.
29	(8) If an officer whose duty it is to enforce this law observes a vessel being used without sufficient
30	lifesaving or firefighting devices or in an overloaded or other unsafe condition and in the officer's judgment the

use creates an especially hazardous condition, the officer may direct the operator to take whatever immediate 1 2 and reasonable steps would be that are necessary for the safety of those aboard the vessel, including directing 3 the operator to return to a mooring or launching site and to remain there until the situation creating the hazard 4 is corrected or ended. 5 (9) The population density and heavy recreational use of certain lakes require a noise standard more 6 restrictive than the standard set in 23-2-526 in order to protect the public health and safety. Unless operated on 7 a river or stream in compliance with a rule adopted under 23-2-521, a person may not operate a motorboat or 8 personal watercraft on Flathead Lake, situated in Lake and Flathead Counties, Echo Lake, situated in Flathead 9 County, or Swan Lake, situated in Lake County, in proximity to the shoreline if the noise emitted is greater than 10 75 dbA measured at the shoreline in accordance with the shoreline sound level measurement procedure (SAE 11 J1970). 12 (10) Unless accompanied by a person 18 years of age or older, a person 12 years of age or younger 13 may not operate a motorboat or a personal watercraft that is powered by a motor rated at more than 10 14 horsepower. A person 13 or 14 years of age may not operate a vessel or personal watercraft powered by a 15 motor rated at more than 10 horsepower without possessing a valid Montana motorboat operator's safety 16 certificate or evidence of completion of a Montana-approved water safety course or unless accompanied by a 17 person 18 years of age or older. 18 (11) A person who owns or has charge or control of a motorboat or personal watercraft powered by a 19 motor rated at more than 10 horsepower may not authorize or knowingly permit the motorboat or personal 20 watercraft to be operated: 21 (a) by a person 12 years of age or younger unless accompanied by a person 18 years of age or older; 22 Of 23 (b) by a person 13 or 14 years of age unless the person possesses a valid Montana motorboat 24 operator's safety certificate or evidence of completion of a Montana-approved water safety course or is 25 accompanied by a person 18 years of age or older. 26 (12) A person may not rent a motorboat or a personal watercraft powered by a motor rated at more than 27 10 horsepower to a person under 18 years of age." 28 29 Section 11. Section 61-8-407, MCA, is amended to read: 30 "61-8-407. Definition of alcohol concentration. For purposes of 16-6-305, 23-2-535 [section 2],

1 67-1-211, and this title, "alcohol concentration" means either grams of alcohol per 100 milliliters of blood or 2 grams of alcohol per 210 liters of breath."

- **Section 3.** Section 87-1-502, MCA, is amended to read:
- **"87-1-502. Qualifications, powers, and duties.** (1) Wardens must be qualified by their experience, training, and skill in protection, conservation, and propagation of wildlife, game, fur-bearing animals, fish, and game birds and <u>must be</u> interested in this work. <u>They Wardens</u> shall devote all of their time for which they are appointed to their official duties.
- (2) They <u>Wardens</u> shall enforce the laws of this state and the rules of the department with reference to the protection, preservation, and propagation of game and fur-bearing animals, fish, and game birds.
- (3) They <u>Wardens</u> shall see that persons who hunt, fish, or take game or fur-bearing animals, game birds, or fish and that those persons who make recreational use of state lands, as defined in 77-1-101, for hunting and fishing, have the necessary licenses.
- (4) They Wardens shall assist in the protection, conservation, and propagation of fish, game, fur-bearing animals, and game and nongame birds and assist in the planting, distributing, feeding, and care of fish, game, fur-bearing animals, and game and nongame birds. They Wardens shall, when ordered by the department, assist in the destruction of predatory animals, birds, and rodents. They Wardens shall perform all other duties prescribed by the department and make a monthly report to the department correctly informing the department of their activities on each day of the preceding month with regard to the enforcement of the fish and game laws, showing where their duties called them and what they did. The reports must contain any pertinent recommendations the wardens may see fit to make.
 - (5) A warden may not compromise or settle violations of fish and game laws out of court.
- (6) A warden has the authority is authorized to inspect any and all fish, game and nongame birds, waterfowl, game animals, and fur-bearing animals at reasonable times and at any location other than a residence or dwelling. Upon request therefor by a warden, all persons having in their possession any fish, game and nongame birds, waterfowl, game animals, and fur-bearing animals shall exhibit the same and all thereof animals in their possession to the warden for such inspection.
- (7) The department is a criminal justice agency for the purpose of obtaining the technical assistance and support services provided by the board of crime control under the provisions of 44-4-301. Authorized officers of the department are granted peace officer status with the power:

1	(a) of search, seizure, and arrest;
2	(b) to investigate activities in this state regulated by this title and rules of the department and the
3	commission;
4	(c) to enforce [sections 1 through 7] as they pertain to boating under the influence;
5	(d)(c) to enforce 45-5-624 as it pertains to possession of intoxicating substances by minors in state
6	parks, in fishing access sites, and on public waters; and
7	(c)(e)(D) to report violations to the county attorney of the county in which they occur."
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9	NEW SECTION. Section 13. Repealer. Section 23-2-535, MCA, is repealed.
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11	NEW SECTION. Section 14. Codification instruction. [Sections 1 through 7] are intended to be
12	codified as an integral part of Title 23, chapter 2, part 5, and the provisions of Title 23, chapter 2, part 5, apply
13	to [sections 1 through 7].
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15	NEW SECTION. Section 15. Severability. If a part of [this act] is invalid, all valid parts that are
16	severable from the invalid part remain in effect. If a part of [this act] is invalid in one or more of its applications
17	the part remains in effect in all valid applications that are severable from the invalid applications.
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19	NEW SECTION. Section 4. Effective date. [This act] is effective on passage and approval.
20	- END -

